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CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**

DATE: 11/24/2020
DOCKET #:

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Gregory Cook
Office: City Judge, City Court, Division C, City of Baton Rouge
Parish: EAST BATON ROUGE
Election Date: 7/11/2020
Level of Office: District

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: 30-P
Original Due Date: 3/5/2020
Date Filed: 3/11/2020
Activity Receipts: \$2,976.16
Expenditures: \$2,976.16
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$-0

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$360
Days Late: 6
Late Fee Order Received: 9/2/2020
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 9/22/2020
Waiver Request Received: 9/11/2020
Additional Information Requested:

- Medical
- Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: First time candidate for elected office, he found the ethics report filing rules cumbersome and somewhat unclear. The election was rescheduled and therefore, the report filing dates should have been adjusted. He had lots of campaign report questions early in the process as well as after the election and discovered that ethics computer system wouldn't allow for past dates to be examined except for the filed reports. Also, he discovered that 30 day report after the general election doesn't contain the appropriate subheading as he didn't make it to the general election and presumed that if there were no new data to report, there was no need to file the same report again. However, the rules are not clear with regards to this.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No

September 10, 2020

P.O. Box 78101
Baton Rouge, LA 70837

State of Louisiana
Department of State Civil Service
Attn: Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

**RE: Late fee assessment for the July 11, 2020 Election
30-P Campaign Finance Disclosure Report**

Dear LA Board of Ethics:

This letter is a request for a waiver of the alleged late fee assessment regarding the above referenced matter. I respectfully request a waiver on the following grounds:

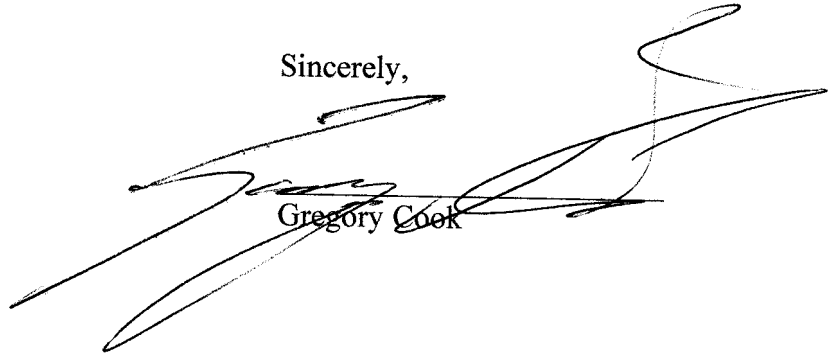
- 1) Pursuant to LA R.S. 18:1505.4, there was no "knowing failure" to file or file late as it was simply an oversight;
- 2) As a first time candidate for elected office, I found the ethics report filing rules cumbersome and somewhat unclear;
- 3) The scheduled election of April 4, 2020 was re-scheduled thereby, altering the original dates of the election and therefore, the report filing dates should have been adjusted.

In fact, I had lots of campaign report questions early in the process as well as after the election was over and discovered that the ethics computer system will not allow for past dates to be examined except for the filed reports. Also, I discovered that the 30 day report after the general election does not contain the appropriate subheading as I did not make it to the general election and presumed that if there was no 1) new data to report; 2) no new transactions; and 3) no changes, there was no need to file the same report again. However, the rules are not clear with regards to this. Enclosed are email communications to substantiate some communications with regards to questions and clarity late in the process

My intent has always been and will always be to comply with all rules. Again, I respectfully request a waiver of the assessment. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Cook', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with long, sweeping horizontal strokes and a large, loopy flourish on the right side.

Gregory Cook



LOUISIANA ETHICS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

CAMPAIGN FINANCE PORTAL

Welcome Gregory: [\[Log Off\]](#)
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[\[Home\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#) [\[Help Videos\]](#)

[Existing Reports](#) [Add New Report](#) [Address Book](#)

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All Reports							
Election	Report Type	Start Date	End Date	Report #	Date Filed	Amendment	
	(102) None Selected						
	(102) None Selected						
07/11/2020	(104) Primary			LA-89150	07/15/2020		
07/11/2020	(103) Primary			LA-89149	07/15/2020		
07/11/2020	(102) 10th Day Prior to Primary	06/22/2020	07/01/2020	LA-88910	07/01/2020		
07/11/2020	(102) 10th Day Prior to Primary	06/20/2020	06/21/2020	LA-88825	06/14/2020		
07/11/2020	(102) 90th Day Prior to Primary	02/09/2020	03/11/2020	LA-88022	03/11/2020		

[View all Campaign Finance reports that you have filed electronically.](#)

If you are looking to e-file personal financial disclosure forms (such as Tier 2.1 or Tier 3 reports), please log in to [PFD E-File](#).

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**SCHEDULE OF REPORTING AND FILING DATES
FOR CANDIDATES & PACs SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING CANDIDATES**

PRIMARY ELECTION - July 11, 2020

GENERAL ELECTION - August 15, 2020

****REVISED ELECTION DATES****

NO.	REPORT TYPE	REPORT COVERS PERIOD FROM:	REPORT COVERS PERIOD THROUGH:	REPORT DUE BY:*	FILED BY:
1.	10 th day prior to primary (10-P)	* if 2019 annual report filed: January 1, 2020 * if 30-P filed: February 25, 2020 * if first report - date of first contribution/ expenditure	June 21, 2020	July 1, 2020	all candidates & PACs supporting or opposing in the primary election
•	Special (48 hour) report (s)	June 22, 2020	July 11, 2020	within 48 hours of transaction	candidates & PACs supporting or opposing having certain transactions (see over)
2.	Election Day Expenditures	See instructions on reverse side	July 11, 2020	July 21, 2020	all candidates & PACs supporting or opposing in the primary election
3.	10 th day prior to general (10-G) LAST REPORT OF PRIMARY ELECTION	June 22, 2020	July 26, 2020	August 5, 2020	LAST REPORT OF PRIMARY ELECTION. MUST BE FILED BY ALL CANDIDATES & PACs SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING IN PRIMARY ELECTION
•	Special (48 hour) report (s)	July 27, 2020	August 15, 2020	within 48 hours of transaction	candidates & PACs supporting or opposing having certain transactions (see over)
4.	Election Day Expenditures	See instructions on reverse side	August 15, 2020	August 25, 2020	all candidates & PACs supporting or opposing in the general election
5.	40 th day after general (40-G)	July 27, 2020	September 14, 2020	September 24, 2020	all candidates & PACs supporting or opposing in the general election
6.	Supplemental & Annual	July 27, 2020 if not in general September 15, 2020 in general	December 31, 2020	February 17, 2021	candidates & PACs supporting or opposing with outstanding debts or loans or having additional contributions or expenditures

* Date received either physically or electronically, by facsimile or e-mail in the office of the supervisory committee or date of postmark or date received on a return receipt requested form from the United States Post Office or receipt or invoice from commercial delivery service. Law requires that candidates for "major offices" and "district offices" file campaign finance reports electronically.
† An annual report was due by February 18, 2020, if contributions received or expenditures made in 2019.

Revised 4/15/2020

**SCHEDULE OF REPORTING AND FILING DATES
PROPOSITION ELECTION**

July 11, 2020

****REVISED ELECTION DATE****

Any person, other than a candidate or political committee, who solicits or receives any contribution or makes any expenditure in support of, or opposition to, a proposition or question submitted to the voters is required to file reports of such contributions and expenditures if the total amount of contributions or expenditures equals or exceeds \$1,000. Any candidate or political committee who solicits or receives any contribution or makes any expenditure in support of, or opposition to, a proposition or question submitted to the voters is required to file reports of such contributions and expenditures if the total amount of contributions or expenditures equals or exceeds \$200. The provisions of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act that apply to political committees apply to persons supporting or opposing propositions. The schedule of the reporting dates for this election is as follows:

REPORT TYPE	REPORT COVERS PERIOD FROM:	REPORT COVERS PERIOD THROUGH:	REPORT(S) DUE BY: ¹
10th day prior to election	*date on which first contribution received or expenditure made, whichever is earlier *February 25, 2020, if 30-P filed	June 21, 2020	July 1, 2020
Special (48-hour) report(s) ²	June 22, 2020	July 11, 2020	within 48 hours of transaction
40th day after election ³	June 22, 2020	August 10, 2020	August 20, 2020
Supplemental report ⁴	August 11, 2020	December 31, 2020	February 17, 2021

1. Date received either physically or electronically, by facsimile or e-mail, in the office of the supervisory committee or date of postmark or date receipted on a return receipt requested from the United States Post Office or receipt or invoice from commercial delivery service.
2. Special (48-hour) Reports: A special report must be filed if, during the 20 days preceding the election, a contribution in excess of \$200 is received or an expenditure in excess of \$200 made. The report is due within 48 hours of the transaction (or the next working day if the time falls other than during regular working hours).
3. 40th day after the election is the last report filed provided no financial activity related to this proposition occurs for the remaining 2020 calendar year.
4. Supplemental Report: If there is any financial activity related to this proposition election from August 11, 2020 through December 31, 2020, a supplemental report should be filed by February 17, 2021.

Questions? Please call (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630 for more information.

RE: Final Report filing Statement : Campaign Finance Inquiries

From: Angela Newsom (ETHICS) (angela.newsom@la.gov)

To: 1cooklawfirm@att.net

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020, 9:01 AM CDT

We have received the report. Upon review, if we need any corrections we will be in touch.

Angela Newsom, Division Director

Campaign Finance & Lobbying

Ethics Administration

P. O. Box 4368

Baton Rouge, LA 70821

225-219-5600

800-842-6630

225-381-7271 (fax)

From: G. Cook <1cooklawfirm@att.net>

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 7:30 PM

To: Angela Newsom (ETHICS) <Angela.Newsom@LA.GOV>

Subject: Re: Final Report filing Statement : Campaign Finance Inquiries

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

I filed Form 102 10-G on 8/13/20. Advise.

Cook & Associates, LLC

Greg Cook

1746 Wooddale Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

225-924-1117 Phone

On Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 1:30:05 PM CDT, Angela Newsom (ETHICS) <angela.newsom@la.gov> wrote:

You need to file the form 102, but you will choose 10-G, not 40-G.

Angela Newsom, Division Director

Campaign Finance & Lobbying

Ethics Administration

P. O. Box 4368

Baton Rouge, LA 70821

225-219-5600

800-842-6630

225-381-7271 (fax)

From: G. Cook <1cooklawfirm@att.net>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 7:34 AM
To: Angela Newsom (ETHICS) <Angela.Newsom@LA.GOV>
Subject: Re: Final Report filing Statement : Campaign Finance Inquiries

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Ms. Newsom,

I filed form 102 on July 11th and there were no changes nor updates as July 11th was the final election for me as I did not make it to the general. So, I still need to file 102 (40th day after General) as this is the only option the computer provides? This is so confusing.

Cook & Associates, LLC

Greg Cook

1746 Wooddale Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

all copies by deleting any and all electronic copies and any and all hard copies regardless of where they are maintained or stored.

On Thursday, August 13, 2020, 5:08:08 PM CDT, Angela Newsom (ETHICS) <angela.newsom@la.gov> wrote:

I will send this waiver request to Melissa to be processed for the 30-P report that was filed 6 days late. However, you are required to file the 10-G report (form 102) as well that was due by August 5. Please file the report ASAP as it is already 8 days late. Since your 10-P report covered activity through 7/1, the 10-G report will need to cover all activity from 7/2 through 7/26.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Angela Newsom, Division Director

Campaign Finance & Lobbying

Ethics Administration

P. O. Box 4368

Baton Rouge, LA 70821

225-219-5600

800-842-6630

225-381-7271 (fax)

From: G. Cook <1cooklawfirm@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Angela Newsom (ETHICS) <Angela.Newsom@LA.GOV>
Subject: Re: Final Report filing Statement : Campaign Finance Inquiries

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Gregory Cook.

Cook & Associates, LLC

intended for the sole use of the addressee(s). If you are not the intended addressee(s), you are hereby notified that any review, use, duplication, disclosure/re-disclosure, copying, storing, distributing or dissemination of this communication or any of its attachments, is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete or destroy this communication and all copies by deleting any and all electronic copies and any and all hard copies regardless of where they are maintained or stored.

On Thursday, August 13, 2020, 11:38:47 AM CDT, Angela Newsom (ETHICS) <angela.newsom@la.gov> wrote:

boxbe Angela Newsom (ETHICS) (Angela.Newsom@la.gov) added themselves to your Guest List | [Remove them](#) | [Block them](#)

What is your name?

Angela Newsom, Division Director
Campaign Finance & Lobbying
Ethics Administration
P. O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
225-219-5600
800-842-6630
225-381-7271 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: 1cooklawfirm@att.net <1cooklawfirm@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Angela Newsom (ETHICS) <Angela.Newsom@LA.GOV>
Subject: Final Report filing Statement : Campaign Finance Inquiries

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Campaign Finance Inquiries

LEAP,

I apologize for filing the final report late. The rules can be a little difficult to decipher. I presumed that when I filed on the primary election day of July 11th, that was the final report unless I advanced to the general election or unless I accepted a contribution after that date which neither happened. Again, I apologize. Please don't access late fees. Thank you.

LEADERS Online: Filing LA-89150 - Gregory Cook

From: ethics.louisiana@la.gov

To: 1cooklawfirm@att.net

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 4:21 AM CDT

Filer Name: Gregory Cook

Filer ID: CAN994439

LEADERS Online -- Louisiana Financial Disclosure Filing Acknowledgement

This is to acknowledge the receipt and acceptance of your electronic filing via of Form 104 on the LEADERS Online System.

Your filing was received and accepted by our system on 7/15/2020, and was assigned the Filing ID of: LA-89150.

Please make a note of this, as it will be necessary to refer to this information in the future.

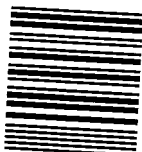
Thank you for using the LEADERS Online System.

[Click here to view the report.](#)

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Gregory Cook
P.O. Box 78101
Baton Rouge, LA 70837

Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

October 12, 2020

P.O. Box 78101
Baton Rouge, LA 70837

State of Louisiana
Department of State Civil Service
Attn: Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: REQUEST FOR APPEAL
Late fee assessment for the July 11, 2020 Election
30-P Campaign Finance Disclosure Report

Dear LA Board of Ethics:

This letter is a request for an Appeal of the late fee assessment regarding the above referenced matter. I respectfully request an Appeal on the following grounds:

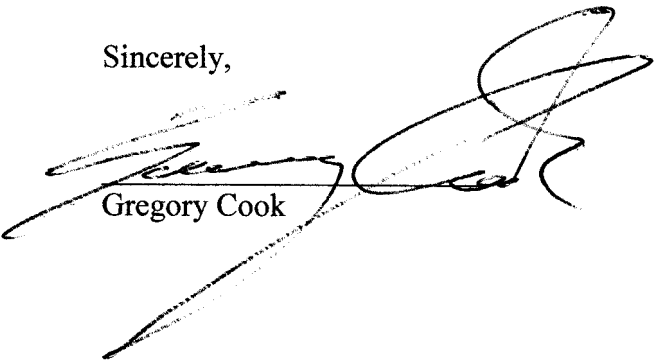
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In fact, I had lots of campaign report questions early in the process as well as after the election was over and discovered that the ethics computer system will not allow for past dates to be examined except for the filed reports. Also, I discovered that the 30 day report after the general election does not contain the appropriate subheading as I did not make it to the general election and presumed that if there was no: 1) new data to report; 2) no new transactions; and 3) no changes, there was no need to file the same report again. However, the rules are not clear with regards to this. Copies of email communications to substantiate my contentions with regards to questions and clarity were previously submitted.

My intent has always been and will always be to comply with all rules. Again, I respectfully request an Appeal of the late assessment. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Cook', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'G' and a long, sweeping underline.

Gregory Cook

Greg Cook
P.O. Box 78101
Baton Rouge, LA 70837-8101

BATON ROUGE LA 707
13 OCT 2020 PM 1 L

Energy Award



State of Louisiana
Department of State Civil Service
Attn: Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

70821-4368

